

military presence in Cyprus and the ongoing mystery of the fate of those who have disappeared. The occupation has gone on for far too long. We must strive for reunification, and we must achieve it soon, so that all Cypriots can benefit from Cyprus's new stature on the world stage.

Cyprus is well on its way to full EU membership—by this time next year it will be official. And, while Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash has continued to throw up roadblocks in front of a formal settlement, it seems the people of Cyprus are fed up with living on a divided island. We have been inspired by the stories of peace and kindness that have emerged from the opening of the borders—an opening that has taken place without the violence Mr. Denktash so stridently predicted. We all know that while leaders may make peace agreements, people make peace—and that is what we have witnessed in Cyprus.

As Ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, it has been an honor to fight to achieve a substantial earmark for Cyprus each year. This assistance demonstrates our commitment to the people of Cyprus and our recognition of their struggle. These funds support measures aimed at reunifying the island and reducing tensions and promoting peace between the people of Cyprus. I believe this earmark sends a strong signal to the people of Cyprus that the United States is unflinchingly committed to realizing the goal of a reunified Cyprus. As the appropriations process continues, I will work to ensure the earmark once again reaches its traditional level of \$15 million.

We must work together to keep up the pressure on Turkey to end its occupation of Cyprus and to allow the Cypriot people to live in peace and freedom. This year, more than ever, we must not let the opportunity for a resolution to this conflict pass.

IN HONOR OF THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Trinidad on the forty-first anniversary of her Independence and the 169th anniversary of emancipation in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean.

Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S. have long enjoyed a prosperous relationship that has hinged upon interests in investment, trade, and regional security. Often noted for holding one of the largest and most elaborate Carnival celebrations in the world, there is much to know about how this small island nation evolved and has come to be such a great friend to our nation.

Trinidad was settled by the Spanish a century after Columbus landed there. The original inhabitants—Arawak and Carib Indians—were largely wiped out by the Spanish colonizers, and the survivors were gradually assimilated. Although it attracted French, free Black, and other non-Spanish settlers, Trinidad remained under Spanish rule until the British captured it in 1797. During the colonial period, Trinidad's economy relied on large sugar and cocoa plantations.

Tobago's development was similar to other plantation islands in the Lesser Antilles and quite different from Trinidad's. The smaller island of the pair, Tobago became known first as Tavaco, then Tabagua, then as Tobago. This was the name given by its tribal people who used a long stemmed pipe in which they smoked a herb called Vcohiba, known today as tobacco.

During the colonial period, French, Dutch, and British forces fought over possession of Tobago, and the island changed hands 22 times—more often than any other West Indian island. Tobago was finally ceded to Great Britain in 1814. Trinidad and Tobago were incorporated into a single colony in 1888.

Trinidad became an oil economy in the 20th century. Oil was discovered in the Guayaguayare, Point Fortin, and Forest Reserve areas in Trinidad. Over time oil and oil related exports came to dominate the economy.

The establishment of U.S. bases on the island in 1941 in exchange for 50 destroyers which at the time was sorely needed by an overstretched Britain, resulted in the construction of numerous roads. Additionally, the G.I.s injected American culture and money into a stagnant economy and shifted the focus of the country from Britain to the U.S.

In the 1950s, the British sponsored the West Indies Federation as a potential post-colonial model, in the belief that most of the Caribbean islands would be unable to survive politically or economically on their own. The Caribbean peoples thought otherwise and the Federation collapsed in the early 1960s.

In Trinidad and Tobago a movement was being born in the 1950s. After receiving his Ph.D. and serving as assistant professor at Howard University, Eric Williams returned to Trinidad and Tobago and formed the People's National Movement (PNM), a political party of which he became the leader. In September of 1956, the PNM won the national elections and he became the chief minister of the country from 1956 to 1959, premier from 1959 to 1962, and prime minister from 1962 to 1981. During his term as prime minister, Williams led Trinidad and Tobago into full independence within the Commonwealth in 1962. Eric Williams is considered the father of Trinidad and Tobago. He died in office on March 29, 1981.

After its 1962 independence, Trinidad joined the United Nations and the Commonwealth. In 1967, it became the first Commonwealth country to join the Organization of American States (OAS). A U.S. embassy was established in Port of Spain in 1962, replacing the former consulate general. Today, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago remains a stable government with close ties and a working relationship to the United States.

Evidence of government stability is represented in the fact that U.S. investment in Trinidad and Tobago exceeds one and one-quarter billion dollars. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago is becoming the leading importer of liquefied natural gas to the U.S. It also is active in the U.S.-initiated Summit of the Americas process and fully supports the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

With a population of 1.2 million people and the size of the state of Delaware, Trinidad and Tobago maintains strong relations with its Caribbean neighbors as well. As the most industrialized and second-largest country in the English-speaking Caribbean, Trinidad and To-

bago has taken a leading role in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), and strongly supports CARICOM economic integration efforts.

The two countries also share its people and culture. There are large numbers of U.S. citizens and permanent residents of Trinidadian origin living in the United States. These individuals keep strong cultural ties to their country of origin. About 20,000 U.S. citizens visit Trinidad and Tobago on vacation or for business every year, and over 2,700 American citizens are residents. In addition, Trinidad like carnivals are held in numerous cities across the U.S. with a major celebration occurring in Brooklyn every Labor Day of which Trinidadians have played an integral role in sustaining.

The Trinidadian, Jessie Wardell was responsible for obtaining the first street permit to celebrate Carnival outdoors on Lenox Avenue in Harlem. Trinidadian, Rufus Gorin, moved the Carnival to Brooklyn where he paired with the Trinidadian, Carlos Lezama, and formed the West Indian American Day carnival Association (WIADCA), which for over thirty years has participated in attracting millions of people to New York to participate in the largest Carnival celebration in the U.S.

I take great pleasure in reflecting upon the magnitude of Trinidad and Tobago's contribution to New York City, our nation, and the world and expressing my personal appreciation for the association I have had with her people over the years. I salute the republic of Trinidad and Tobago and her accomplishments and ask that you join me in honoring her as she celebrates her 41st Anniversary.

HONORING EDGAR B. "PETE" DOWNS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edgar B. "Pete" Downs on his 60th birthday and for his dedication to the wine industry of America. Pete will be celebrating his birthday on August 10, 2003.

Pete has been involved in the wine industry for over 30 years. His interest in wine was refined when he studied and received his Bachelor of Science in Fermentation Science at University of California, Davis in 1973. He specialized in enology, the study of wine, and brewing studies. This education led him to becoming a winemaker for several top wineries in California. In 1992, he became the General Manager of Lakeport, Edmeades and Vinwood, three of the wineries in the Kendall-Jackson family. His success with these wineries led to his promotion to be Vice President of Government Affairs of Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates.

Pete's involvement not only with the winery, but with members of the industry on every level has led him to be one of the most successful Vice Presidents of the wine industry in the United States. Pete is a board member of the American Vintners Association, the Family Winemakers of California and a professional member of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture. He is also Chairman of the Congressional Wine Foundation and active in Washington, DC wine efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edgar B. "Pete" Downs on the occasion of his 60th birthday and his significant and steadfast national and international efforts to promote the wine industry of America.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2210) to authorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation changes the goal of Head Start from a level playing field for disadvantaged children and their parents to an undefined goal of school readiness. By creating block grants, this measure turns Head Start over to states, but without any of the current requirements related to high quality and comprehensive services that have made the program successful.

While states and localities, such as Nassau County, New York which I represent, are facing their own budget crunches, this legislation will only do further harm to school budgets.

Head Start is an important program for nearly 1 million low-income children and their families throughout the country and on Long Island. Throughout its 35-year history, Head Start has created not only high performance standards, but also a comprehensive system of evaluation and monitoring to guarantee that these standards are met.

The Head Start system for accountability reviews programs once every three years to ensure that the integrity of federal dollars is protected and that our nation's poorest children do not miss a single opportunity to grow and develop.

Head Start's accountability reaches far beyond the typical monitoring done in state pre-school programs. A team totaling as many as 25 reviewers spend a week reviewing every aspect of a Head Start operation, including: the curriculum; family and community partnerships; human resources; program development; teacher qualifications and professional development; physical and mental health; disability services; and language and cultural appropriateness.

The new assessment in this legislation is a narrow one that only collects the data from a direct test of children's knowledge.

This test only asks questions related to literacy, language, and numbers. Child development experts agree that a single direct assessment does not produce quality data on learning.

Using this type of test to hold programs accountable could create a host of harsh results—such as the temptation to only enroll children who face few barriers to learning or to recruit children who will test well—and potentially leaving out children who desperately need Head Start services.

This is especially true for those students with language barriers or learning disabilities. As someone with a learning disability, I know first hand how hard it was to overcome education obstacles. I was lucky enough to come from a very supportive family, but not all children are as lucky.

Head Start is a success and historically has enjoyed bipartisan support. Unfortunately, with today's legislation, this would be for the first time in its 35-year lifetime that Head Start would be considered without strong bipartisan support. Although we should continue to improve the program, we should do nothing to dismantle it. Unfortunately, I think we are headed down that road today, and that is why I urge the defeat of this bill.

UNITED STATES-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT, H.R. 2738 AND UNITED STATES-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT, H.R. 2739

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to vote for these two trade agreements, H.R. 2738 and 2739. I firmly believe that these trade agreements will provide exciting opportunities for the United States, including U.S. agricultural producers. For example, under the Chile agreement, more than three-quarters of U.S. farm goods will enter Chile duty-free within four years, and all tariffs will be phased out within 12 years. Many North Dakota agricultural products, such as soybeans, durum wheat, feed grains, corn, and potatoes will have greatly improved market access.

I am not, however, without concern regarding these, or future trade agreements. Chile and Singapore are examples of countries with laws that reflect core international labor principles. As such, the "enforce your own" laws provision that is included in these agreements is tolerable, although it would be preferable to have additional and independent enforcement mechanisms. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of many of the countries and regions with which the United States is in the process of negotiating trade agreements.

For this reason, I will not support future agreements that do not open markets for United States agricultural products; that do not require adoption and enforcement of the basic prohibitions on exploitive child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and guarantee the right to associate and bargain collectively; or that provide greater rights for foreign investors than Americans in the United States. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the United States Trade Representative in ensuring that these important ideals are honored.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2210) to authorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes:

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this misguided legislation.

The father of Head Start, Dr. Edward Zigler, once said, "Learning is not a purely cognitive enterprise—children learn better when they have good physical and mental health and have families whose own needs are met." I could not agree with him more.

The Head Start program merges literacy activities with lessons in good nutrition, vision screenings, and proper hygiene. It also recognizes the need to bring parents into the developmental process by providing them with support services in and out of the home, such as access to comprehensive health care and social workers, peer counseling, and parenting programs.

As a mother and grandmother, I know that it takes a lot more than basic reading skills to get our children prepared for learning. A kid's emotions, personality, and social surroundings are just as important as their I.Q. when first entering school.

Under this bill, however, instead of providing comprehensive family support, eight states could divert the funding to reading and language development-only programs—leaving behind the parental involvement and health components that are key to Head Start.

If the goal was to truly promote reading excellence, then we could expand and increase our investment in programs like Reading First, Literacy Through School Libraries, and Reading Is Fundamental.

Unfortunately, that is not what this proposal is about. Rather, it is a subtle acknowledgment that the Republican Congress has not fulfilled its promise to supersize the federal government's education budget. By giving states the right to divert this funding into education programs, Head Start will be likely be used to makeup for the funding shortfalls for the No Child Left Behind Act's programs.

My colleagues, our kids need balanced meals before, during, and after school. They need comfortable, clean clothing in order to learn. And they need safe, structured, and encouraging environments in which to study. Head Start teaches parents these lessons, while also providing our kids with the right tools and motivation to learn.

What happened to the saying—"if it's not broken, don't fix it?!" This program has a proven track record for effectiveness.

While I strongly support the provisions in the bill that improve teacher quality, create accountability measures, and increase Head Start's focus on educational skills—we simply cannot make the drastic changes that will eliminate the very initiatives that keep Head Start strong. I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting to maintain the critical nutrition and health components of Head Start by voting against this bill.